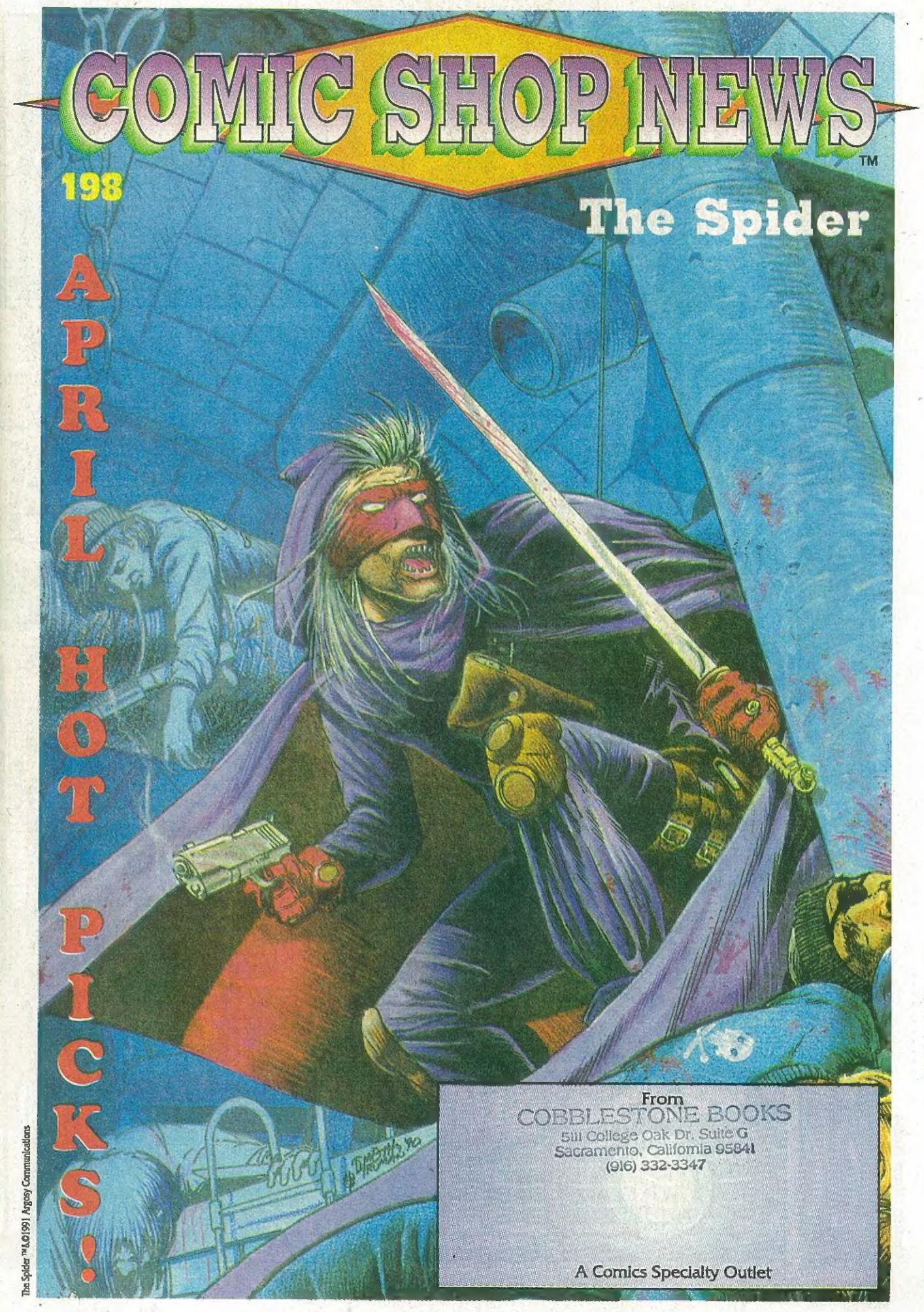

The Spider™&©1991 Argosy Communications

The Spider Is Back, More Deadly Than Ever

Before comic books became the home of the costumed hero, many adventurers could be found in the pages of the 1930's and 1940's pulp magazines. Doc Savage, the Shadow, the Avenger--all these comic book heroes had their beginnings in the pages of 10¢ and 15¢ pulp-novel adventures. This year, another pulp hero revival will take place at Eclipse Comics when ***The Spider, Master of Men*** gets his own limited series, courtesy of the same team responsible for the hit ***Hawkworld*** limited series.

"The Spider has always been one of my favorites," said writer-artist Tim Truman. "The Spider's quite insane. I've taken these very two-dimensional, outrageous pulp heroes and villains and established the psychology behind their actions, giving their obsessions motivation. As a result, there's a lot of crazy people running around!

Spider ™ &©1991 Argosy Communications

"A woman calling herself Captain Kidd uses an electronic device to fry occupants of passenger trains, and then heists their belongings," Truman explained. "The Spider must stop both her crime ring and crooked politician named Jet Skarno." And of course, the Spider is willing to use any means to achieve his goal. Both the police and the mob are familiar with his unorthodox, often violent means of bringing criminals to justice; this is a man who makes the Punisher look sedate!

Tim Truman, writer and penciller of ***The Spider***, will be joined by inker Quique Alcatena and colorist-painter Sam Parsons for the three-issue prestige-format series. Each issue of ***The Spider*** features 48 pages of story and art for $4.95; the first issue is set for April release.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

COMIC SHOP NEWS™

198 4 • 10 • 91

Vampirella Returns From the Dead

Vampirella, the exotic and sometimes erotic vampire created for Jim Warren's ***Vampirella*** magazine over two decades ago, is returning to comics once again in 1991. Vampirella vanished when the various Warren magazines went out of business; now, with interest in vampires stronger than ever, ***Vampirella*** is returning from Harris Publications; she will be starring in the first of two trade paperbacks reprinting Warren material, and will subsequently move into her own miniseries and ongoing series.

"We're coming out with two reprint anthology trade paperbacks," editor Richard Howell said. "They are scheduled to appear this summer. The first one is ***Vampirella,*** which will reprint the first storyline of the series, the stories from issues 8, 9, and 11-16 of her Warren magazine. All of these stories are written by Archie Goodwin with art by Tom Sutton on three stories and Jose Gonzalez on the others. Gray Morrow is tentatively scheduled as cover artist; the book will be142 pages in black and white--it'd have to be because the artwork was prepared originally in black and white with a great deal of tone work--priced at $12.95. The title for this trade paperback is ***Vampirella Versus the Cult of Chaos.***"

The second trade paperback will reprint some of the best horror stories ever produced for comics. "The next book is ***Creepy: The Classic Years,***" Howell said. "It's also 142 page trade paperback priced at $12.95. This one has a new cover by Mike Kaluta; it's already done and it's beautiful. It will contain a selection of unrelated anthology stories from the first seventeen issues of ***Creepy.*** These stories are written almost entirely by Archie Goodwin; artists include Alex Toth, Steve Ditko, Gray Morrow, Angelo Torres, Jerry Grandenetti, Neal Adams, Reed Crandall, Joe Orlando, and Frank Frazetta. We'll be including Frazetta's last comic story, 'Werewolf,' from ***Creepy #1.***"

Howell said that Harris is making sure that the artwork received the quality reproduction that work of this caliber deserves. "All of the art is being re-shot, so we're not using stats of stats of stats," Howell explained.

Shortly after the release of the Vampirella trade paperback, a new four-issue prestige-format ***Vampirella*** black-and-white limited series will debut. This will also have new painted covers by Mike Kaluta; the series will be written by Kurt Busiek with interior art by Louis LaChance and John Nyberg. "This limited reintroduces Vampirella and her supporting cast and reestablshes the Warren--now the Harris--horror universe. The projected launch date is Setpember, but that's not certain," Howell said. After the limited series is completed, Vampirella will get her own monthly standard-format black and white series.

Tentatively scheduled for October is an eight-issue ***Creepy*** limited series in standard 32-page black-and-white comics format. "This won't be anthology series," Howell said. "It will feature a regular storyline involving Uncle Creepy and his house of horrors and the various people drawn to the house for various reasons. There will be individual stoires of Uncle Creepy's guests, tied in with the main storyline. Peter David will be working on ***Creepy,*** with a variety of artists contributing individual stories and a regular team doing the main storyline."

Howell also indicated that Harris had plans for two more titles by the beginning of '92. "We're establishing a Harris horror universe with Vampirella and Creepy," Howell said. "Dracula will be a part of the universe; he has already been introduced in the Vampiralla series by Archie way back when. He'll be showing up in some of the monthly issues of Vampirella; aftrerwards, he'll get his own book. All three series will exist solidly within the Harris horror universe. The fourth book is untitled right now; it's about Rex Havoc and the Asskickers of the Fantastic, characters who appeared briefly in the Warren magazine 1984."

The Harris horror books will be distributed by Dark Horse Comics. Harris has long-range plans for additional titles, but no specific books have been established beyond these first four.

by CLIFF BIGGERS

Excalibur's Looking Sharper Than Ever

Alan Davis, co-creator of ***Excalibur,*** has finally set the month for his return to the title that he and Chris Claremont debuted in 1988. Beginning this August, Davis will return to write and pencil each month's issue of ***Excalibur***--and will set to work breaking the team up soon afterwards!

Davis takes over with ***Excalibur #42,*** on sale August 22nd; he will be joined by inker Mark Farmer. In the first Davis-Farmer issues, Excalibur faces the menace of the deadly Technet tweety bird (no foolin'!), their headquarters is destroyed, and major confrontations arise within the team, focusing on Meggan. As if this isn't strange enough, Excalibur and Technet end up sharing headquarters...

Before too long, Excalibur disbands, and the book spotlights solo adventures. Future storylines involve Kitty and Alistaire at a mysterious archeological dig, Meggan and Rachel seeking Meggan's roots, and Captain Britain standing trail before Saturnyne and the other-dimensional Captain Britains.

So where's Nightcrawler during all this? As it turns out, he has a major role in the future of Excalibur--for Nightcrawler is the hero who organizes a new team of European heroes--who promptly move into the lighthouse with Excalibur and Technet!

"The emphasis for Excalibur will be fast-paced action coupled with very British tongue-in-cheek humor," ***Excalibur*** editor Terry Kavanagh said. "To dig out an old cliché, 'expect the unexpected.'"

Excalibur will not be a part of the Mutant Genesis storyline that Bob Harras told ***CSN*** readers about in ***CSN 196***; however, in upcoming issues Excalibur will learn that the X-Men are still alive.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

Excalibur ™ &©1991 Marvel Comics

Quantum Leap Makes the Jump to the Comic Shop

Quantum Leap, the successful story of Dr. Sam Beckett's strange journeys through time, has recently come back stronger than ever to the Wednesday night NBC television series, posting some of its highest ratings ever. That has to be great news for Innovation Comics, because they'll soon help Sam Beckett make a new leap--a leap to the comic shop racks, where ***Quantum Leap*** will become the latest monthly title from Innovation.

"Pleased with our handling of both ***Child's Play 2*** and ***Child's Play: The Series***, Universal Studios was quick to grant us the opportunity to do new ***Quantum Leap*** stories," said publisher David Campiti. "They've supplied editor George Broderick with the series bible, so our new stories will be very much in line with the TV show's direction."

In case you've missed ***Quantum Leap***, the premise as created by Donald Bellisario goes like this: Sam Beckett had a theory that one could time travel within his own lifetime. He worked with other scientitsts to test his theory in a project known as Quantum Leap. His project was threatened with shutdown due to budget cutbacks, though, so Beckett did the only thing he knew of to determine if his theory worked: he stepped into his own project accelerator and soon found himself in the body of someone totally different. Beckett discovered that he was destined to appear in the body of one person after another, trying to help make their lives right again. His only contact with his own time was a mental link with Al, the project coordinator, who appears as a hologram visible only to Sam. Beckett's hope is that he will eventually leap into his own body, returning home.

"PRESSURED TO PROVE HIS THEORIES, OR LOSE GOVERNMENT FUNDING, DOCTOR BECKETT PREMATURELY STEPPED INTO THE ACCELERATOR CHAMBER--

Quantum Leap ™ &©1991 Universal Studios

George Broderick, editor of the series, said, "I'm writing the first issue [entitled "First There Was a Mountain, Then There Was No Mountain, Then There Was,"] and most of the 'teaser ending leaps,' to tailor stories towards what the writers can do best." Broderick is talking to a number of writers for the series first twelve issues. "When they take an assignment, working from a surprise 'leap,' it puts them in a disoriented state going in--much like Sam Beckett..." Bob Ingersoll is already slated to write ***Quantum Leap #2,*** with Steve Dorfman tentatively slated to follow with ***QL #3.*** Other writers Innovation is negotiating with include Terry Collins, David Lawrence, David Campiti, and James Schlosser.

Quantum Leap will be illustrated by Mark Jones and Scott Rockwell; it will be produced in full airbrush color, just like Innovation's ***Lost in Space*** series. The first issue will feature a cover painting by Hollywood movie poster artist C. Winston Taylor. ***Quantum Leap #1*** is scheduled for late June-early July release. Each issue will be priced at $2.50.

by ALEX KIRKLAND

NEWSBRIEFS

MCDUFFIE, WRIGHT, COWAN, & MANLEY THE RIGHT COMBINATION FOR DEATHLOK

Deathlok's reprint series is already off to a smashing start, helping to pave the way for May's release of the first issue of the new ***Deathlok*** series--and it's going to be quite an event indeed, judging from the contributors who are involved!

Dwayne McDuffie and **Greg Wright** are teaming up to script the first issue of Deathlok, after which each will write alternating story arcs. McDuffie will write the first four-part series that runs in ***Deathlok #2-5***; this storyline will emphasize Deathlok's role in the Marvel Universe (and of course, that means lotsa guest-stars, including Dr. Doom, Misty Knight, Forge, Ultron, Jocasta, Mr. Fantastic, Wolverine, the Vision, the Super-Adaptoid, and Machine Man). This first multi-part storyline will involve a cyborg organization that is under attack from unknown forces.

Deathlok is illustrated by **Denys Cowan**, who also illustrated the last two issues of the miniseries. He will be joined by inker **Mike Manley** (whose work is already evident in the first new Marvel title of '91, ***Darkhawk).*** Cowan will supply the series' covers. Each issue of ***Deathlok*** is priced at $1.75; the first issue is slated for May 30th release.

SUPERMAN SEES THE WORLD FROM A DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE

"The Red Glass Trilogy," a three-part series running through the Superman titles this spring, presents the Man of Steel with a serious problem: either the world is going awry--or he is! What's causing the nightmares that Superman finds himself living in? Readers will find out in this trilogy written by **Jim Hudnall** (author of ***Lex Luthor: An Unauthorized Biography)*** and illustrated by **Ed Hannigan** and **Willie Blyberg**. The storyline begins in ***Superman #56***, on sale April 18th; it continues into ***Adventures of Superman #479***, on sale April 25th, which guest-stars Booster Gold, Martian Manhunter, and Guy Gardner; and it concludes in ***Action Comics #666***, on sale May 2nd. **Andy Kubert** supplies the covers for all three installments of "The Red Glass Trilogy."

SHADOWRUN'S RULES FOR ANARCHY READY TO SEE THE LIGHT

The ***Neo-Anarchists Guide to North America.*** originally scheduled to appear last September is making its way into shops in March, priced at $12. This Shadowrun sourcebook covers all of the major cities in North America for use in Fasa's futuristic ***Cyberpunk*** game. Included in the manual is information on laws, trade restrictions, corporations, the government, and the military—everything that the rising anarchist finds interesting. Not to mention the book's helpful "travel tips" that highlight the country's top spots for action, adventure, and mass chaos. Also coming out for Shadowrun in March is the adventure gamebook ***Ivy and Chrome***, dealing with the disappearance of a young girl from her exclusive boarding school.

GRAPHITTI EXPLORES AKIRA LEGENDS

Graphitti Designs the producer of a series of quality limited edition items, has taken a strong interest in **Katsuhiro Otomo**'s ***Akira***--and you can be sure that fans are going to take a strong interest in what Graphitti produces. They'll lead off their ***Akira*** line with a cold-cast porcelain figure of ***Tetsuo.*** This hand-painted high quality figure sculpted by **Steve Kiwus** depicts Tetsuo after he has lost his arm; the sculpture has all the detail you'd expect from the artist who also sculpted Graphitti's Betty and Omaha figurines.

Tetsuo, a 7" tall figurine, will be produced in a 1500-unit run; after that, the mold will be destroyed. Each figure is priced at $69.95; if you're interested, talk with the friendly folks at your local comic shop (and tell 'em that you heard about it in ***CSN***!).

Graphitti will also offer a series of ***Akira t-shirts*** beginning in May with two shirts; one is a black t-shirt that depicts a design symbolizing the power of Akira, while the other white shirt features Tetsuo in all his glory. Each shirt will be screen-printed in full color on a 100% cotton t-shirt; each shirt carries a $13.95 pricetag.

Later this year, Graphitti plans to offer hardcover ***Akira*** volumes; each Graphitti book will feature the contents of two of Marvel's trade paperbacks (which means that they'll contain six issues of the ***Akira*** comic book). Look for the first volume to appear later on this summer.

CARTOON CONFIDENTIAL SPREADS THE WORD

Jim Korkis and **John Cawley** have an inside edge on the world of animation--and they're willing to share the info they've run across. Fans who don't have time to dig up the inside poop themselves can enjoy it all in ***Cartoon Confidential,*** a June release from Eternity Comics.

Why was Josie and the Pussycats censored? How did Mel Blanc's radio show help save The Flintstones? You'll find out the answer to these and many more questions in ***Cartoon Confidential.*** "For me, the book is like a box of assorted chocolates, filled with secret, pleasant surprises for all tastes," said co-writer Korkis, who is a well-known animation historian.

"In ***Cartoon Confidential*** you'll see old friends, hear the latest gossip, discover hidden secrets, and even meet a frew new friends, said **John Cawley**, who has worked in the animation industry for over a decade now. ***Cartoon Confidential*** is the latest project from the two, joining ***The Encyclopedia of Cartoon Superstars, Cartoon Quarterly,*** and ***How To Create Animation***, other works on which the two have collaborated.

Cartoon Confidential will explore little-known facts about Bugs Bunny, the Simpsons, Betty Boop, Superman, Tony the Tiger, Dick Tracy, Woody Woodpecker, the Flintstones, and many more. It'll also deal with such industry enigmas as the Tom Carter Studio, described by Eternity as "one of the most talented animation studios that never produced a thing!" And that's just a small sampling of what will be featured in this collection. Look for it in comic shops in June.

OH WHAT A TANGLED WEB...

A young man loses someone very important to him to a criminal turned killer. Somehow, the young man gains the powers of a spider and sets out to get revenge on the killer.

Sound familiar? In this case, though, the deceased is the hero's girlfriend, and she's the victim of thugs under the command of a vicious drug lord. And the hero not only gets spider-related powers, he also gains an extra pair of arms and an arachnid countenance. Maybe that's why he's known as...***Arachno-Man***!

Arachno-Man, a May release from BC Comics, is produced by **Stan Wong** and **Earl Geier.** the first 32-page black-and-white issue is priced at $2.50. If you're thinking this is just another Spider-Man pastiche, rest assured--you've never seen Spider-Man on the rampage like this!

JUDGE DREDD PREPARED FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

Judge Dredd is a fellow who never travels unprepared--and that's the theme for Fleetway-Quality's upcoming ***Judge Dredd t-shirt*** designed by **Dave Dorman.** The slogan is "Dredd Sez: Always Carry Protection," and Judge Dredd is obviously following his own advice, as you can see from the artwork that accompanies this article. The Dorman art is printed in full color on an all-white cotton t-shirt priced at $12.95. As with all specialty items of this sort, you might want to let your local comic shop know that you're interested--and tell 'em you heard about it in ***CSN,*** okay?

A LANDMARK PUBLICATION!

Have you always had a theory that Gotham City was really New York City? Did you suspect that Metropolis was in actuality Chicago? Well, think again--because thanks to ***The Atlas of the DC Universe,*** you can peg the exact location of these cities, as well as many others in the DC Universe. (Just in case you're curious, New York City is definitely not Gotham City; the Big Apple is located a bit to the northwest of Gotham, which is firmly established in New Jersey.)

The 208-page ***Atlas of the DC Universe,*** a May release from Mayfair Games, is a perfect companion to DC's ***Who's Who*** series. For the first time ever, fans can have a complete guide to the places that make up the DC superhero worlds. We're not just talking about maps of the US here, either; you can find out about superheroes in other countries, on other planets, and even in other galaxies and dimensions! ***The Atlas of the DC Universe,*** priced at $19.95, is scheduled for May release; as with any specialty items of this sort, you might want to reserve a copy with your local comic shop just to be sure you don't miss out (and tell 'em that ***CSN*** sent you, okay?...)

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NEWSBRIEFS

Frost™ & ©1991 Hugh Fleming

FROST DUE THIS SPRING

Jack Frost, the nocturnal adventurer created by **Kevin Van Hook** whose adventures have appeared in both comic book and graphic novel format, will return to the racks in April in a new limited series entitled ***Frost: The Dying Breed.*** The new series explores Frost's Vietnam experiences, which played a significant role in making him the man he has become.

The new series begins in the present as Jack Frost visits the Vietnam Memorial. From there, readers are presented with a flashback that details his Vietnam experiences, his first meeting with Nat McKenzie, and his capture by the enemy-- a capture that was brought about by the betrayal of someone that Frost had trusted. In the present, Frost learns that the person who betrayed him is still alive, and he sets out to avenge the twenty-year-old act of treachery. ***Frost: The Dying Breed*** is written and illustrated by Kevin Van Hook. Van Hook is using a slightly different style for the flashback sequences of the book; he will illustrate the Vietnam pages using tones to give those segments a different look from the present-day portions of the story. **Hugh Fleming** is painting the covers for the four-issue miniseries. ***Frost: The Dying Breed #1***, a $2.95 comic, is scheduled for April release.

THE PEANUTS GALLERY

For over two years now, Fantagraphics has been talking about ***Nemo: Classic Comics Library 31/32***'s feature-length interview with **Charles Schulz**, creator of ***Peanuts.*** The magazine was first scheduled for 1989, but it never appeared. Last year, Fantagraphics rescheduled it--but once again, production delays prevented its publication. Well, Fantagraphics swears that we're going to have a chance to read this long-awaited Schulz interview this May when ***Nemo 31/32*** finally reaches the comic shop racks. This 80-page $6.95 final issue of ***Nemo*** will feature, in addition to the interview, articles about Peanuts, rare art, and more.

TOONTOWN SET TO SCORE ITS OWN SERIES

Roger Rabbit has been one of Disney's most successful comic books in the year-plus that the company has published its own books, so it's only natural that the series would be the source of a second spinoff comic book. This June, Disney will debut ***Roger Rabbit's Toontown #1***, a 32-page anthology book featuring stories starring both Roger and some of his friends (and occasionally, his enemies) from the land of Toontown. The first issue will feature stories spotlighting Baby Herman and Jessica Rabbit; creators involved in the all-new title include **Chuck Fiala, Phil Foglio, Marc Hansen, Dan Mishkin, Doug Rice, John Costanza, John Blair Moore, Ernie Colon,** and **Scott Saavedra.** Each issue of Toontown will be priced at $1.50.

ANOTHER PARTNER?...

Batman's getting another new partner? That's what DC tells us will happen in ***Batman #464***; Batman, Black Wolf, and Dog join together to battle mystical forces in the caverns of the Grand Canyon, where Batman battles Two-Hearts and comes away with "a new partner!"

This issue also kicks off ***Batman***'s biweekly summer run, so you can find out two weeks later just how Robin feels when Batman's new partner sets up residence in the Batcave! For those of you who are buying this book for Commissioner Gordon, you'll be happy to learn that he proposes to Sarah Essen in ***Batman #465***. ***Batman #464*** is scheduled to reach the comic racks on May 23rd; ***Batman #465*** follows it on June 6th. Batman is written by **Alan Grant** and illustrated by **Norm Breyfogle** and **Steve Mitchell.**

MARSHAL LAW FACES A GRAVE SITUATION

Marshal Law has put an awful lot of adversaries in the ground during his career--now, if they'd only stay there!... In ***Marshal Law: The Hateful Dead #1***, the good Marshal finds that those he's defeated in the past are rising from the San Futuro graveyard, resurrected by a toxic spill that's created an army of zombie superheroes ready to wreak havok on San Futuro. Can even Marshal Law save the city from the walking dead? You'll be able to find out in when the first prestige-format issue of this series reaches comic shops in May, courtesy of **Pat Mills** and **Kevin O'Neill.** The full-color prestige-format book is priced at $5.95.

Marshal Law™ &©1991 Mills & O'Neill

MARVEL COMICS ANNUALS SUMMER 1991
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DAREDEVIL® THE PUNISHER® CAPTAIN AMERICA®

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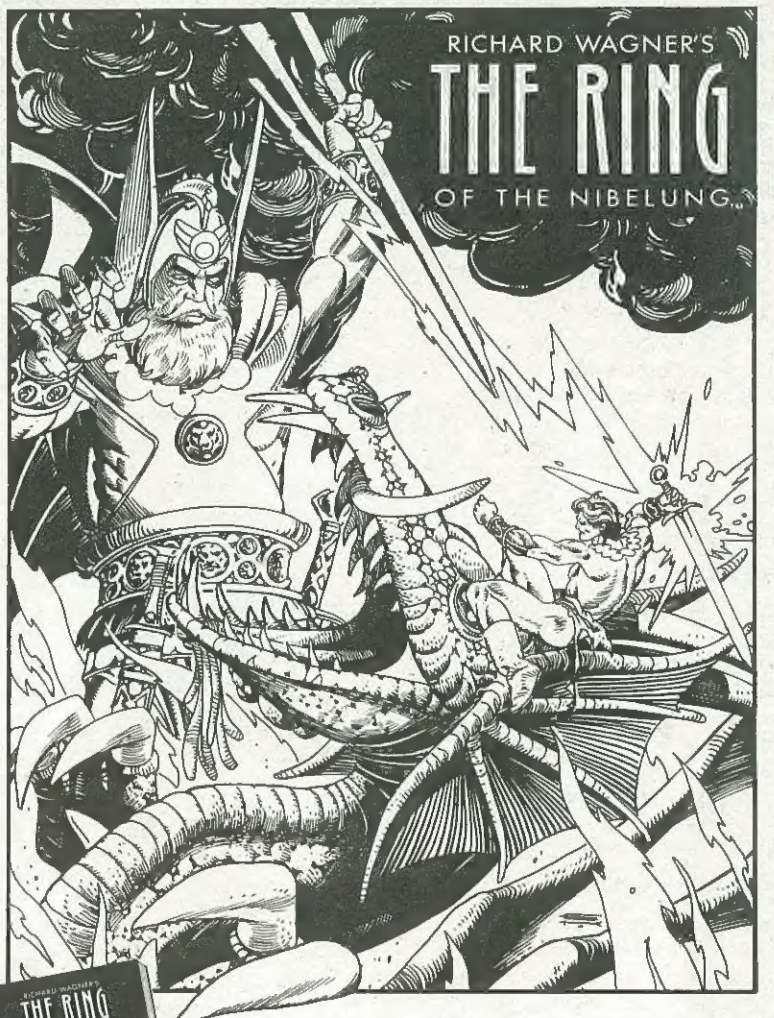

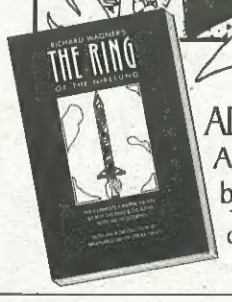

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ADAPTED BY ROY THOMAS & GIL KANE
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CSN HOT PICKS!

APRIL HOT PICKS!

Could summer be getting nearer? Let's see-- both DC and Marvel are launching their first annuals this month, the total number of comics published is about 10% greater than the month before...yep, it looks like summer is closing in on us quite rapidly indeed! Without further ado, here are the two dozen titles you don't want to miss!

Ape Nation 3

Crossovers of this sort are always popular--but it certainly helps when they're as well done as this is. A strong storyline, great art, and some of the best coloring you'll find this side of a prestige-format comic book, thanks to Dave DeVries. Adventure's first crossover into color, ***Puppet Masters***, was an adequate sellers, but with a strong concept like ***Planet of the Apes*** Meets ***Alien Nation***, you can expect this book to be have a very short shelf life indeed. *(Adventure, $2.50)*

Archie Americana Vol. 1: The 1940's TPB

We were excited about this one back in January, and we're even more excited now--after all, you're getting the same number of pages, the same great material, for almost 30% less! This 128-page collection features

Y'KNOW, BATMAN... MAYBE YOU OUGHT TO THINK ABOUT TONING THAT COSTUME DOWN A LITTLE. I MEAN, IT'S SO DARK, SO...SO GRIM, LIKE.
Batman ™ &©1991 DC Comics

Justice League Int. Quarterly 3

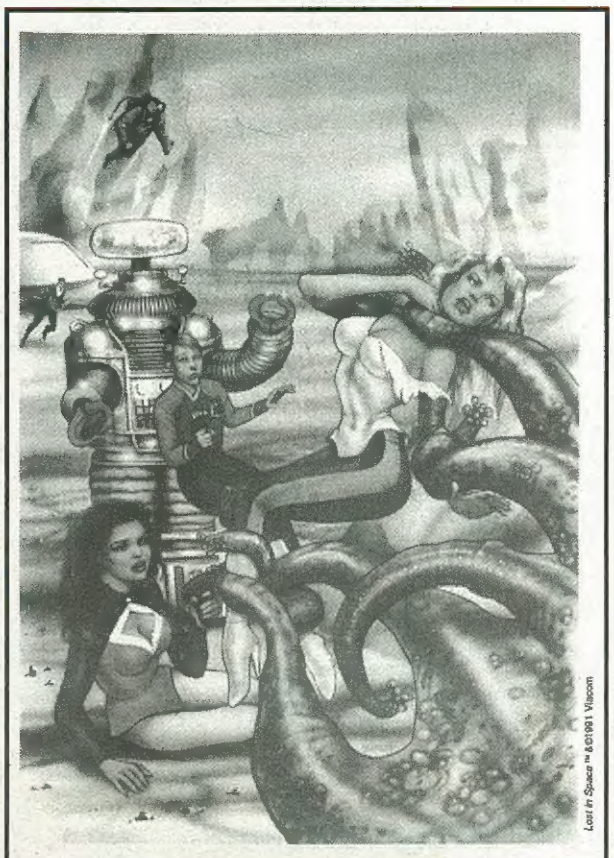
quality reprints of some of the earliest Archie stories from his first decade--including the very first Archie appearance! Archie fan Stephen King, who's also pretty well known for some horror novels he's written, contributes the intro for this one. *(Archie, $8.95)*

Batman Annual 15

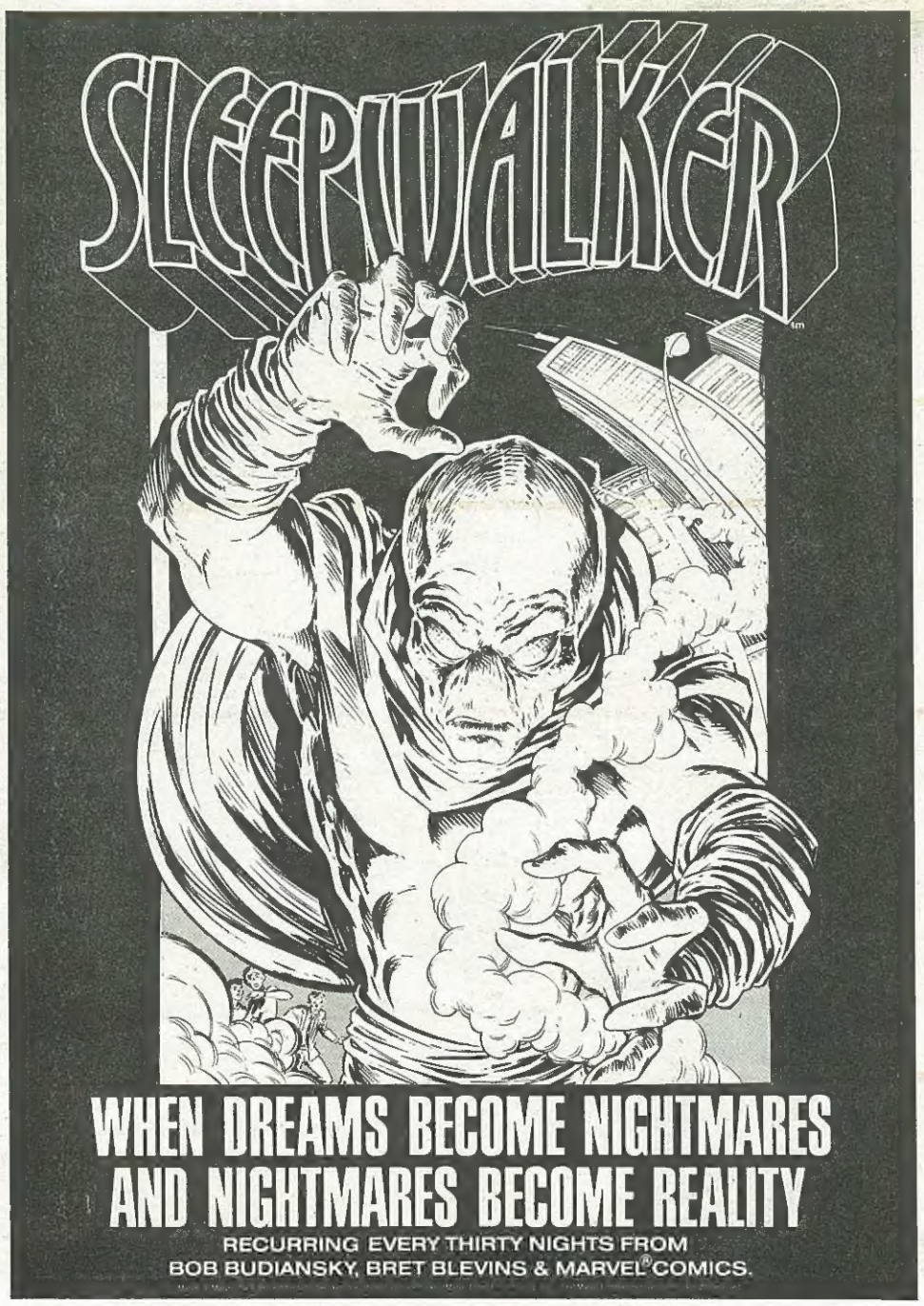
Batman in jail for the death of the Penguin? The Joker has his own television show? Senator Tim Drake donning the Robin costume again? Does all this sound like an imaginary story to you? Well, maybe it is! ***Batman Annual 15*** is a part of the ***Armageddon 2001*** storyline that's running through many of DC's annuals this year, and it all sounds like some of the most fun fans will ever find in one of these multi-part annual extravaganzas. *(DC, $2)*

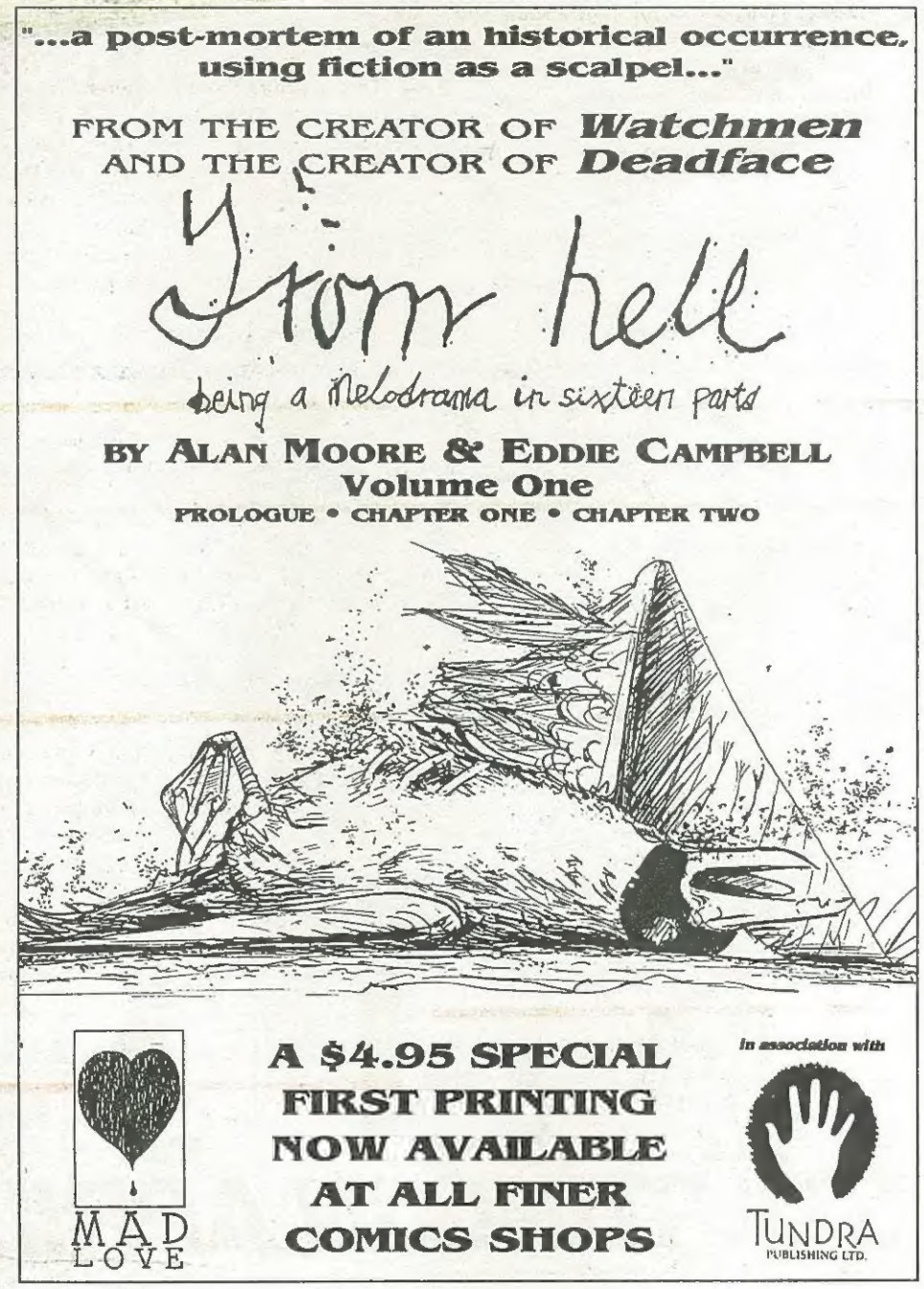
Blue Witch of Oz

Eric Shanower has a lot more fans now than he had when he produced his earlier Oz graphic novels--largely due to his superlative art on DC's ***Justice League*** books. Those fans will find that his art is even better in the Oz books--perhaps you might even cal it "inspired." Great art and a strong story in the L. Frank Baum tradi-



Lost In Space


SLEEPWALKER
WHEN DREAMS BECOME NIGHTMARES
AND NIGHTMARES BECOME REALITY
RECURRING EVERY THIRTY NIGHTS FROM
BOB BUDIANSKY, BRET BLEVINS & MARVEL® COMICS.



CSN HOT PICKS!

tion...what more could you ask for from an Oz graphic novel? *(First, $8.95)*

Daredevil 293

Last month's Daredevil-Punisher crossover was just as hot as we told you it would be; the chemistry just seems to click with these two characters. Dan Chichester's determined to move Daredevil back into the upper echelon of Marvel titles once again, and judging from fan reaction, he's very successful at it. Grab it now or pay big bucks for it a few months down the line! *(Marvel, $1)*

Dragonflight Book Two

Dragonflight Book One is running just late enough that there's a chance it won't appear until this month--but whichever ***Dragonflight Book*** hits the shelves, latch on to a copy! Anne McCaffrey has been one of those big-name phenomena in the science fiction field, where every Pern novel shoots to the best-seller lists. A lot of those fans are going to want a copy of this adaptation, giving it an enormous potential audience searching for a relatively small number of copies (small in relation to the total number of copies each of her novels has sold, that is). *(Eclipse, $4.95)*

Flaming Carrot 25

Bob Burden's ***Flaming Carrot*** has been a cult-favorite for quite a while due to the book's quirky nature and surreal storylines; now the rest of the world will be checking Flaming Carrot out, just to see who this strange hero is who's playing host to the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles! TMNT crossovers always create instant sellouts; the trend is sure to continue here. *(Dark Horse, $2)*

Ghost Rider 14

Ghost Rider versus Ghost Rider continues in the second part of the Johnny Blaze multi-parter. The first part of this story is selling even better than most Ghost Riders--and that's saying a lot--so you can expect equally sizzling sales for this second installment. (And just think how red-hot *next* month's issue will be, with that glow-in-the-dark ink!...) *(Marvel, $1.50)*

Hero Alliance Quarterly 1

Hero Alliance has consistently been one of Innovation's most popular titles; that's the reason for the addition of a second ongoing series. What's going to make ***Hero Alliance Quarterly #1*** even more popular than the average ***Hero Alliance*** story, though, is the cover and interior art by George Perez, a fan-fave whose work always gets attention. Perez is also busy on a series for Marvel (does the name ***Infinity Gauntlet*** ring a bell?...) so his visibility can only boost reader interest in this premiere issue. *(Innovation, $2.75)*

Justice League International Quarterly 3

The Justice League meets the Justice League in a star-studded issue that sends today's league back through time to confront the original Justice League of America. This offbeat crossover has a dual appeal--both new and old-time fans are going to want to see the meeting. Think of it as a 1990's "Crisis on Two Earths"... *(DC. $2.95)*

Lost In Space 1

According to the folks at Innovation, initial reaction has been even stronger for this title than it was for the mega-hit ***Vampire Lestat*** series! Fans everywhere seem eager to find out just what Innovation's approach to this 1960's tv "classic" will be--and with comics writer (and former ***Lost in Space*** star) Bill Mumy co-writing the series, you know you'll be getting ***Lost In Space*** the way it should be done. *(Innovation, $2.50)*

Magnus Robot Fighter 2

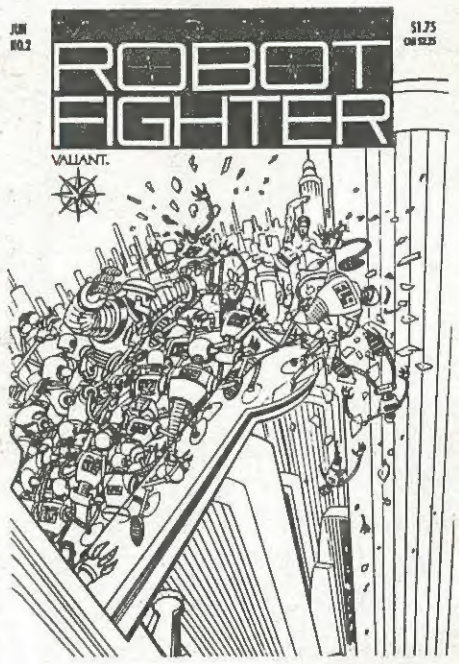
The first issue of ***Magnus Robot Fighter*** proved to be every bit the success that we predicted; the second issue should be equally popular with fans, capturing as it does the nostalgia of the original Magnus series and the contemporary Marvel-ish approach so popular with modern readers. Will Magnus be *the* comeback title of '91? Could be... *(Valiant, $1.75)*

Marvel Comics Presents 77, 78

Weapon X continues--and that means that this title's sizzler status continues as well. Every issue of ***Marvel Comics Presents*** with Barry Windsor-Smith's exploration of Wolverine's origin has been near the top of Marvel's best-seller list, and there seem to be more fans clamoring for this 13-parter every week. (You almost feel sorry for the creators responsible for the other three-quarters of the book; it's sort of like being another act on the Ed Sullivan Show on February 11th, 1964, when the Beatles premiered...) *(Marvel, $1.25 @)*

Namor the Sub-Mariner 15

The Punisher's a busy guy; in addition to guest-starring in Daredevil, he's dropping in for a visit in Namor, where he's targeted Desmond Marrs for punishment. Fans always seem to enjoy seeing John Byrne's in-



Ninja High School: Prom Formula 1

Ninja High School has been a perennial success for Eternity, which is undoubtedly why the publishers decided to offer a ***Ninja High School*** full-color miniseries. Judging from the reaction to the other Malibu Graphics full-color titles, this one is destined to be a quick sellout--and deservedly so, since it has the same manga-inspired combination of humor and adventure that has made the ongoing title so popular. *(Eternity, $2.50)*

Predator: Big Game 2

If you look at Dark Horse's previous track record with ***Aliens***, ***Predator***, and ***Terminator*** limited series, then you know why this title is guaranteed a spot on the hot picks list. Dark Horse leads the pack of movie-inspired comics publishers, and with good reason; they offer strong stories and quality artwork in an affordable package. *(Dark Horse, $2.50)*

Photo-Journal Guide to Comics Volume 3

Ernst Gerber's Photo-Journal Guide to Comics Volume 1 and 2 is one of the real must-have additions to any collector's reference shelf; it offers a comprehensive photo-history of the comics genre from its earliest days until the mid-1960's. For a follow-up, Gerber is offering this volume spotlighting Marvel Comics.

The volume will offer full-color photos of every Silver Age Marvel superhero title from 1961 until the late 1970's-early 1980's. It's an invaluable reference tool; fans who are serious about their hobby are sure to make this a sellout. *($49.95 SC/ $129.95 HC)*

Professional: Golgo 13

Viz Comics' first color series, ***Gunhed***, was an unqualified success; you can expect this hard-hitting series about a professional assassin to follow suit. ***Golgo 13*** is a profes-

DARK HORSE COMICS
FLAMING CARROT COMICS
No. 25
THAT LITTLE GREEN GOOFY GUY. WHERE'D HE GO? ... I KNOW HE'S AROUND HERE SOMEWHERE
Flaming Carrot™ &©1991 Bob Burden

Comic Shop News Cover of the Month!

CSN HOT PICKS!

sional assassin whose exploits will have a strong appeal to fans of the Punisher, Nomad, and other urban vigilante heroes. *(Viz, $4.95)*

NHS: Prom Formula 1

Silver Surfer 50

Marvel offers its first-ever foil cover on this issue of *Silver Surfer*, giving fans just one more reason to pick it up--as if they needed another! After all, this is the issue that leads into the spring's biggest limited series, ***The Infinity Gauntlet***. *Silver Surfer* has been climbing in popularity in recent months; this landmark issue should be enough to catapult it to the top echelon of Marvel books. *(Marvel, $1.50)*

Sleepwalker 1

Marvel has a great track record with its new-title debuts; last year, they produced five major hits (***Ghost Rider, Guardians of the Galaxy, Namor, New Warriors***, and ***Spider-Man***), and this year, it looks like they'll do just as well, if not better. Darkhawk has already been an extremely popular mainline superhero addition; Sleepwalker should be equally successful. This story of a being who protects the Mindscape may sound like a superhero version of *Sandman*, but it should have a strong appeal with superhero fans who find surreal books like Sandman too inaccessible. Sleepwalker's also scheduled to play a part in the ***Infinity Gauntlet*** storyline, which should help his hot status even more before the year is out. *(Marvel, $1)*

Spider 1

Tim Truman reinterprets a classic pulp hero for the 1990's without ever losing sight of the hero's 1930's roots. ***The Spider*** is produced by the same team that gave fans the hit ***Hawkworld*** limited series (Tim Truman, Alcatena, and Sam Parsons); the trio's credentials bode well for the success of this three-issue limited series. Any fan who's ever enjoyed pulp-hero adventure will have to have a copy of The Spider; it's probably the best pulp-adaptation yet. *(Eclipse, $4.95)*

Superman Annual 3

This is the second *Armageddon 2001* storyline to make it onto the Hot Picks list; like the aforementioned ***Batman Annual***, this is in effect an imaginary story (but aren't they all?...) showing what Superman's future might be like. Fans should enjoy the chance to see an out-of-control Superman facing off against a kryptonite-wielding Batman. Fans should also enjoy the artwork of newcomer Dusty Abell, whose work resembles a mix of

BATMAN™

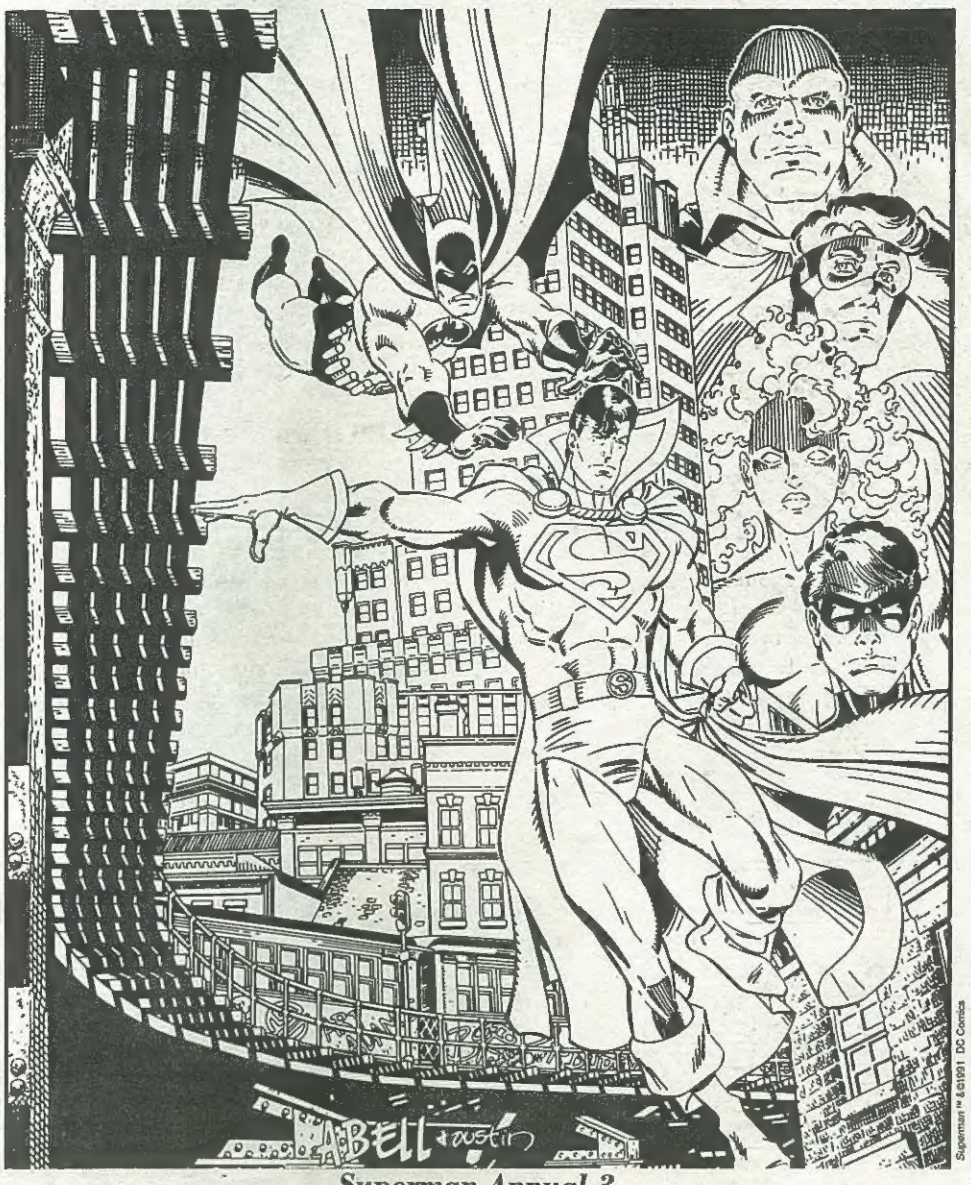
by Loebs, Infantino & Nyberg

THE BAT-SIGNAL BURNS INTO THE NIGHT SKY.
WE HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE. WE MUST CALL ON THE BATMAN.
THEN I'D BETTER GO. SOMEBODY HAS TO MEET HIM. I HOPE HE SHOWS UP.
LOEBS, CHIARA & NYBERG
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, MASTER DICK?
NO.
NOTHING. I HOPE HE COMES.
UM... HE HAS.
WHO IS IT?
AN...ASSOCIATE OF THE BATMAN.
LOEBS, CHIARA & NYBERG
IT'S A NEW RIDDLE. WE JUST GOT IT.
"WHEN IS A CITY AS DROUGHT-STRICKEN AS A RIVER?"
WHEN ITS BANKS ARE EMPTY, OF COURSE.
BUT WHICH BANKS?
LOEBS, CHIARA & NYBERG
RIDDLE ME THIS! "HOW IS MAN LIKE SWISS CHEESE?"
THEY CAN BOTH BE HOLE-Y! DON'T MOVE OR I'LL PROVE IT!
AND HERE, A RIDDLE FOR THE BATMAN.
"FOLLOW ME QUICK TO MY HOME IN THE SKY. PILOTS AND PIANOS IS ALL YOU WILL FIND!"
BOY, DO I LOVE THIS JOB!
LOEBS, CHIARA & NYBERG
ASSISTANT POLICE COMMISSIONER NOYES.
ANOTHER RIDDLE, EH?
"FOLLOW ME QUICK TO MY HOME IN THE SKY. PILOTS AND PIANOS IS ALL YOU WILL FIND!"
WHAT DO YOU THINK, LT. MUNI?
TROUBLE, SIR.
LOEBS, CHIARA & NYBERG
SO... THE RIDDLER IS CHALLENGING ME DIRECTLY, EH?
YEP. "FOLLOW ME QUICK TO MY HOME IN THE SKY. PILOTS AND PIANOS IS ALL YOU WILL FIND!"
SIGH. I SUPPOSE THIS MEANS ANOTHER HAPPY EVENING PORING THROUGH CODE-BOOKS!
LOEBS, CHIARA & NYBERG

TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES™

...SURE HATE TO HAVE KNOCKED OUT THESE DOG-DUDES OVER A TREE...!
YES, LEONARDO... THE TREE. THEY CALLED THEIR TREE-
--GAEA.
YES, BUT GAEA IS NOT THEIRS --IT IS OURS!
I AM PUMARRO.
I AM A QAT.
I AM PUMARRO. I AM A QAT.
I AM SPLINTER. I AM A RAT.
YO...
NICE FANGS, DUDE.
THESE ARE MY STUDENTS-- LEONARDO, MICHAELANGELO, DONATELLO AND RAPHAEL.
SO, PUMARRO, WHY DID THE DOG-MEN ATTACK US?
THEY ARE CALLED GRRRUFS. THAT IS THEIR WAY.
WHERE ARE WE?
THIS IS THE LAND OF TRESMUNDO.
WHAT'S WITH THE TREE?
IT IS GAEA. IT IS THE HEART OF TRESMUNDO.
SO, PUMARRO...THE PROBLEM HERE IS TERRITORIAL...?
YES, THE GRRRUFS THINK TRESMUNDO IS THEIRS.
THEY ARE WRONG. IT BELONGS TO US...
...WE QATS WERE HERE FIRST.
IF THE QATS WERE HERE FIRST, THEN HOW DID THE GRRRUFS COME TO BE HERE?
THE GRRRUFS CAME BECAUSE THEY WANTED THE FLESH OF THE GAEA TREES...
...SO THEY CAME AND CUT THEM DOWN
NOW THERE IS ONLY ONE LEFT.
CLARRAIN LAWSON BERGER VELLEMER
GREEN TIP™
EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY
MAKE A LIFE-LIST
KEEP A LIST OF ALL THE BIRDS YOU SEE. WRITE DOWN WHERE AND WHEN YOU SEE THEM. YOU'LL BE SURPRISED AT HOW MANY DIFFERENT SPECIES OF BIRDS THERE ARE IN YOUR VERY OWN NEIGHBORHOOD! IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE IDENTIFYING A CERTAIN BIRD, TRY LOOKING FOR A PICTURE OF IT IN A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO BIRD-WATCHING BOOK.
WRITE TO THE TURTLES C/O THIS NEWSPAPER.

CSN HOT PICKS!



Superman Annual 3

Art Adams, Rob Liefeld, and Walt Simonson, among others; could Abell be the big art find of 1991?... *(DC, $2)*

Twilight 2

Fans are already talking about the first issue of *Twilight;* the Chaykinesque reinterpretation of the lesser-known DC sf heroes only gets more controversial with the second issue. This is a thinking fan's series; thankfully, there are enough thinking fans out there to keep this title selling quite strong. *(DC, $4.95)*

Venus Wars 1

Venus Wars 1

Dark Horse's latest entry in the manga-translation field is a grand sf saga by Yoshikazu Yasuhiko that presents the conflict between two philosophically opposed colonies on a futuristic terraformed Venus; the storyline is strong enough to give fans something to read, while the artwork is filled with the sort of dynamic action manga readers thrive on. Lotsa motorcycles, lotsa tanks, lotsa fancy weaponry--it's all here! *(Dark Horse, $2.25)*

Overlooked Gem of the Month

Month after month, Sergio Aragones and Mark Evanier put *Groo* through his paces in his own monthly title, much to the delight of the klutzy barbarian's legions of fans. Groo is such a stable part of the Marvel line that it's easy to overlook the character's strong appeal; almost a decade after his premiere, he still outsells (in comics shops) the Conan-esque heroes who inspired him. His first graphic novel, *The Death of Groo,* is a perennial favorite--so you can expect the follow-up graphic novel, *The Life of Groo,* to find just as eager an audience. For the fan who might be unfamiliar with the zany appeal of this "hero," his origin is a great place to try him out... *(Marvel, $9.95)*

THE MESS JUST GOT WORSE---
THEY'VE GONE HOLLYWOOD!
DAMAGE CONTROL
NO! NOOOOO!
Marvel's favorite maintenance engineering workforce has an all new limited series written by Dwayne McDuffie with art by Kyle Baker and Ernie Cólon.
(Not to mention the trade paperback recapturing their very first adventure.)
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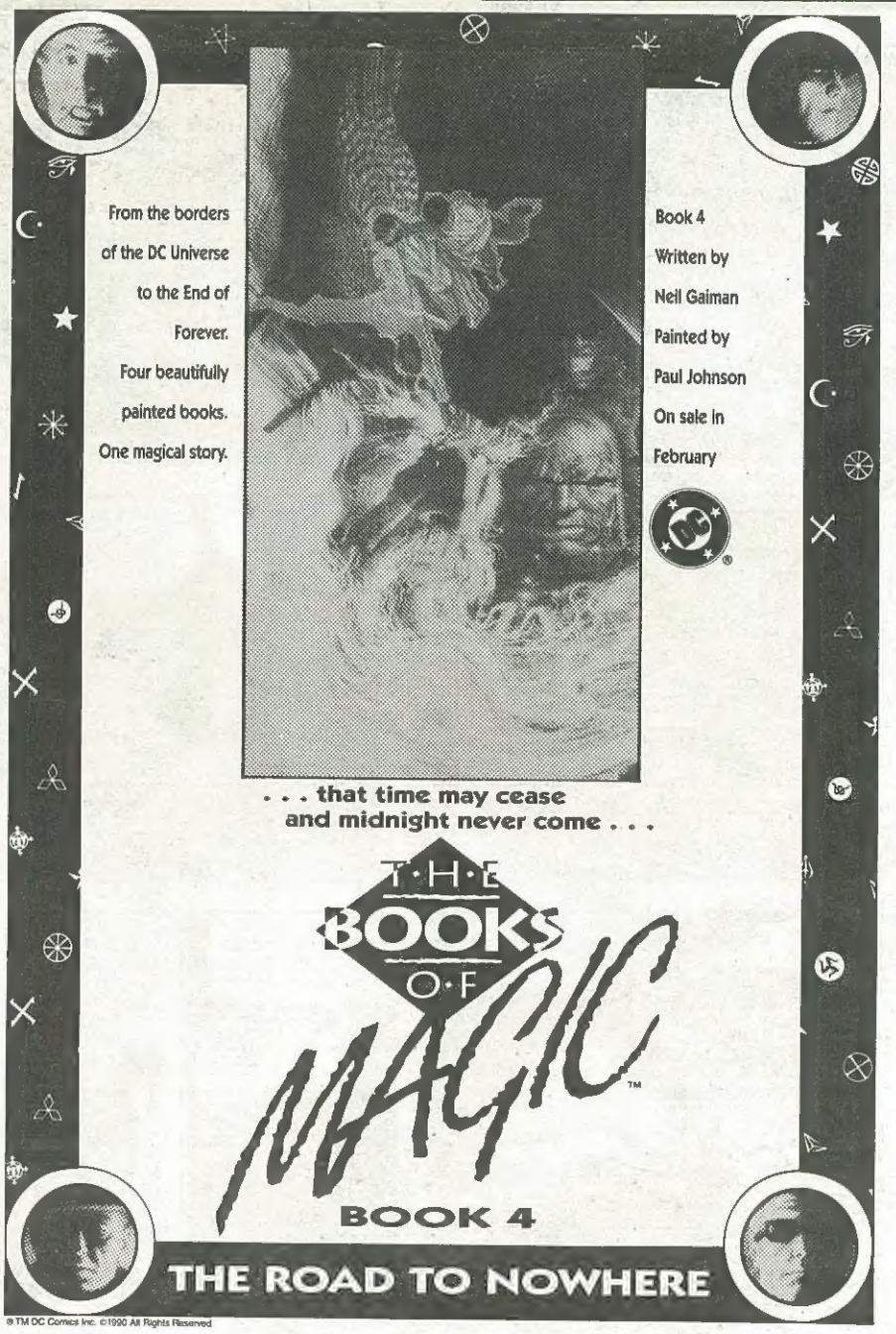
From the borders of the DC Universe to the End of Forever. Four beautifully painted books. One magical story.
Book 4 Written by Neil Gaiman Painted by Paul Johnson On sale in February
. . . that time may cease and midnight never come . . .
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BOOK 4
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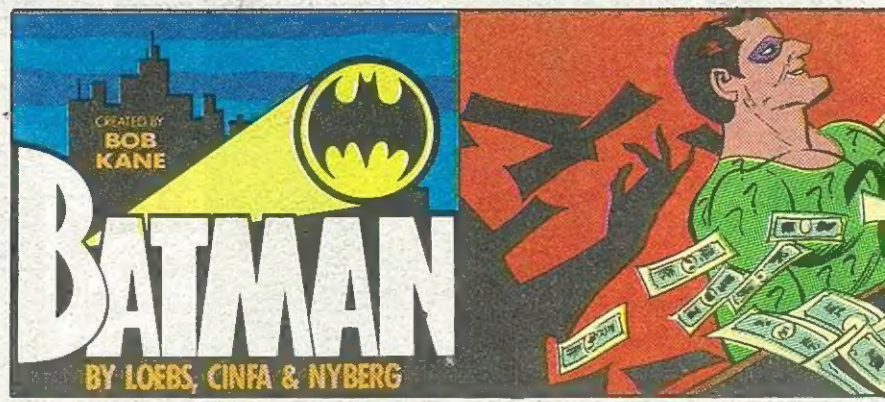
CREATED BY
BOB
KANE
BATMAN
BY LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG

CLANK

HE'S ESCAPING ...LEAVE ME... CATCH HIM!
YOU'RE KIDDING, RIGHT? YOU'RE BLEEDING AGAIN. YOU NEED HELP.

ACROSS TOWN...
LT. MUNI... WE NEED HELP... TOO MANY INJURED...

YOU'VE GOT TO CONTACT HIM... MEET WITH HIM IN MY PLACE.
YESSIR... I'LL TRY...

IT LOOKS TO ME LIKE THE RIDDLER RENTED THAT THEATER AND THE GIANT TYPEWRITER THAT MEANS... ALFRED...?

THE RIDDLER HAS MORE MONEY THAN HE KNOWS WHAT TO DO WITH... A BAD SITUATION.
I'M REALLY GOING TO DO IT ...I'LL BE THE MAN WHO KILLED BATMAN!
I CAN'T HAVE A PARTNER WHO WON'T LISTEN TO ME!
BUT BATMAN...
HUMPPH!
IT SEEMS TO ME THAT IF HE'D LEFT A FRIEND TO DIE, HE WOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A PARTNER AT ALL!
OH, MY GOD.
IT'S THE BAT-SIGNAL. THE POLICE NEED MASTER BRUCE!
LOEBS, CINFA & NYBERG
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